

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 141641Z MAY 76

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2509

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS USBERLIN 1026

FOR OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT: USIA FOR IPS/USINFO: FRANKFURT
FOR PUGH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (ROCKEFELLER, NELSON A)

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO BERLIN: OFFICIAL TEXT

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF VICE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AS
DELIVERED AT GOLDEN BOOK CEREMONY AT RATHAUS SCHOENEBOURG,
BERLIN, MAY 14:

2. MR. GOVERNING MAYOR, EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

3. IT IS INDEED AN HONOR AND A PERSONAL PRIVILEGE FOR MRS.
ROCKEFELLER AND MYSELF TO REPRESENT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
STATES AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
GERMANY'S GENEROUS CELEBRATION OF THE BICENTENNIAL OF
AMERICA'S INDEPENDENCE.

4. THE OFFICIAL CEREMONY, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE TOMORROW
IN PAULSKIRCHE IN FRANKFURT, IS ONLY ONE OF LITERALLY
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HUNDREDS OF EVENTS PLANNED IN GERMANY TO MARK THIS

HISTORIC ANNIVERSARY.

5. WE ARE DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE OF GERMANY'S INTEREST AND THE FACT THEY ARE JOINING WITH US IN THIS CELEBRATION. AND I WOULD LIKE TO SAY TO YOU, MR. MAYOR, HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE THIS OPPORTUNITY OF BEING HERE, BEING WITH YOU AND YOUR WONDERFUL WIFE AND YOUR COURTESIES TO US, AND YOUR GENEROUS REMARKS WHICH YOU HAVE JUST MADE. AND HOW MUCH IT MEANS TO BE BACK IN BERLIN WHICH HAS BEEN FOR US AS A PEOPLE AND FOR THE WORLD A SYMBOL OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN FREEDOM, WHO BELIEVE IN HUMAN DIGNITY, AND WHO BELIEVE IN THE COURAGE TO PRESERVE IT THROUGH THEIR WILL POWER, THEIR DETERMINATION, THEIR STRENGTH, WHICH YOU SYMBOLIZE HERE IN BERLIN.

6. GOING BACK TO THE BICENTENNIAL AND YOUR JOINING US IN CELEBRATING THIS, I WOULD LIKE TO JUST MENTION, BECAUSE WE WERE TALKING EARLIER, THAT MUSIC LOVERS IN WASHINGTON ARE STILL TALKING ABOUT ONE OF THE MOST MEMORABLE GERMAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR 200TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION -- THE BRILLIANT PERFORMANCE OF THE BERLIN OPERA LAST NOVEMBER. WE WERE SO GRATEFUL FOR THAT BEAUTIFUL TRIBUTE. WE IN THE UNITED STATES ARE DEEPLY MOVED BY YOUR ENTHUSIASM IN CELEBRATING OUR NATION'S BIRTHDAY.

7. THE FACT THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC HAS PLANNED SUCH AN EXTENSIVE COMMEMORATION OF OUR ANNIVERSARY IS TESTIMONY NOT ONLY TO THE CLOSENESS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, BUT TO THE UNIVERSAL APPEAL OF THOSE IDEAS OF HUMAN FREEDOM WHICH INSPIRED THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. WHEN PRESIDENT FORD ASKED ME TO ATTEND THE CEREMONIES IN FRANKFURT, HE ASKED ALSO THAT I EXTEND MY VISIT TO INCLUDE A VISIT TO BERLIN ON THIS TRIP. HE MADE THIS REQUEST TO DEMONSTRATE ONCE AGAIN AMERICA'S STEADFAST COMMITMENT TO THIS COURAGEOUS OUTPOST OF FREEDOM.

8. IN THE DIFFICULT YEARS SINCE 1945, BERLINERS HAVE DEMONSTRATED ANEW HOW FREE PEOPLE ARMED WITH A DETERMINATION TO PROTECT THEIR LIBERTY CAN RESIST

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DOMINATION. YOU HAVE SHOWN THE WORLD THAT DEMOCRACY IS NOT MERELY AN ABSTRACT IDEAL, BUT A WAY OF LIFE.

9. MY COUNTRY IS PROUD OF THE OPPORTUNITY THAT WE HAVE HAD TO BE YOUR PARTNERS IN MAKING POSSIBLE THIS PROSPEROUS, DEMOCRATIC CITY, ALONG WITH OUR FRIENDS FROM BRITAIN AND FRANCE. THE WORLD HAS UNDERGONE PROFOUND CHANGES SINCE 1945. BUT CERTAIN THINGS HAVE NOT AND WILL NOT CHANGE.

THE UNITED STATES WILL LIVE UP TO ITS WORLD RESPONSIBILITY
AND NOWHERE IS THAT RESPONSIBILITY MORE CLEAR THAN
HERE IN BERLIN. WE ARE DETERMINED BOTH TO MAINTAIN
THE STRENGTH NECESSARY TO DEFEND FREEDOM IN THE WORLD,
BUT AT THE SAME TIME WE ARE PREPARED TO WORK PATIENTLY
TO EASE MILITARY AND POLITICAL TENSIONS WHERE POSSIBLE.
NO CITY CAN BENEFIT MORE FROM BOTH THAN BERLIN.
WE WILL SEARCH FOR PEACE. BUT WE WILL NOT BE
BIND TO THE HARSH REALITIES OF THIS WORLD. THERE CAN
BE NO COMPROMISE OF OUR COMMITMENT TO PROTECT FREEDOM
AND INDEPENDENCE, NO COMPROMISE OF THE IDEALS OF
HUMAN DIGNITY AND FREEDOM WHICH AMERICA IS CELEBRATING IN
THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR. ABOVE ALL, THERE WILL BE NO
COMPROMISING THE FREEDOM OF BERLIN.

10. MR. GOVERNING MAYOR, I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN INSPIRED BY
MY VISITS TO YOUR GREAT CITY. TODAY IS NO EXCEPTION.
DURING OUR TOUR TODAY I SAW A VIBRANT, ENERGETIC
METROPOLIS. IN TALKING WITH YOUR LEADERS, I WITNESSED
NO BITTERNESS ABOUT THE DIFFICULT ROLE WHICH FATE HAS
CAST UPON YOU, NOTHING BUT SOLID OPTIMISM ABOUT THE FUTURE,
YOU ARE AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL. WHAT I HAVE
FOUND IS A VIABLE, THRIVING ISLAND OF WESTERN
DEMOCRACY -- DESPITE YOUR PHYSICAL SEPARATION FROM THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC. TO ME, THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON TO
BE LEARNED FROM A VISIT TO BERLIN IS THIS: BERLIN IS NOT
MERELY ALLIED WITH THE WEST OR RELATED TO THE WEST -- IT
IS THE WEST. BERLIN AND BERLINERS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART
OF WESTERN SOCIETY AND CIVILIZATION JUST AS ARE LONDON, PARIS
OR NEW YORK. YOU ARE INDIVISIBLE FROM US. WE COULD NO
MORE ABANDON YOUR FREEDOM THAN WE COULD OR OWN. WE
CARE ABOUT YOU BECAUSE YOU AND WE ARE ONE -- AND THIS WE
WILL NEVER FORGET. GEORGE
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